

BOOK REVIEWS

PARAPSYCHOLOGY: THE CONTROVERSIAL SCIENCE by Richard S. Broughton. New York: Ballantine, 1991. Pp. viii + 408. \$22.00, cloth. L. C. 90-24320. ISBN 0-345-35638-1. \$10.00, paper. ISBN 345-37958-6.

For years, I have sought an accessible but intellectually respectable book that I could hand to students or colleagues who want to know if "there is anything to this ESP stuff." Broughton's *Parapsychology* is that book. It recounts the history of contemporary parapsychology and describes parapsychological research in sufficient detail to permit both students and colleagues to appreciate the conceptual, methodological, and statistical sophistication of the field's best and brightest. And despite Broughton's opening disclaimer that he is "not naturally inclined toward the writer's craft," his exposition is clear, his style informal but serious, and his tone of cautious enthusiasm perfectly pitched.

All of this confers substantial credibility on Broughton's central thesis that there is indeed something to this ESP stuff: not only are there psi-like anomalies wanting explanation, but parapsychology is an enterprise scientifically capable of making progress toward their explanation. In short, I'm convinced. But I'm an easy sell, and my concern in this review is how well Broughton has made the case for my students and colleagues. Will it play in Ithaca?

The book is divided into three parts. Part I contains four chapters that map out the domain of psi phenomena, trace the history of parapsychology, describe the diverse kinds of data that parapsychologists consider, and discuss in broad terms the continuing controversy over psi. In this last section, Broughton describes parapsychology's controversial entry into the AAAS and, under the heading "The Rise of Fundamentalism," discusses the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). Here and throughout the book, he deals with even parapsychology's most irresponsible detractors with equanimity and lack of defensiveness.

Part II provides the substantive survey of the field. Chapters 5 and 6—about 30 percent of the book—describe contemporary research in extrasensory perception and psychokinesis, respectively. Chapter 5 covers the dream research at Maimonides, ganzfeld studies, remote viewing, ESP research with random number generators, and

recent work on precognition at the Institute for Parapsychology and Ed May's laboratory formerly at SRI International. The extensive participation of the psi-talented Malcolm Bessent in these several areas is also discussed. This is an excellent chapter that could stand by itself and be assigned to undergraduate and graduate students. In my view, it represents parapsychology at its best.

Chapter 6 is divided about equally between macro-PK and micro-PK. The chapter opens with an extended discussion of Nina Kulagina, the Soviet woman with apparent psychokinetic abilities, and moves through PK parties, Uri Geller, juvenile Geller imitators, and PK research in China. If my own reaction to this material is predictive, even the most open-minded of my colleagues in "mainstream" psychology will be unimpressed. The second half of the chapter moves back to more solid ground, so to speak; it describes the micro-PK work of Schmidt, Jahn (including Jahn's work with macro-PK), and Broughton's own "applied luck" project.

The remainder of Part II contains Chapter 7, "Real Ghostbusting," and Chapter 8, "Life after Death?" As with the macro-PK discussion, I depart these chapters with a certain squeamishness (embarrassment?) over the quality of the evidence and a strong temptation to expurgate these chapters before handing the book to my colleagues.

Part III is entitled "The Future of Psi." The first chapter in this section, "Adding It All Up," is superb. It contains the best nontechnical exposition of meta-analysis I have seen and could be assigned to students in a number of psychology courses that have nothing to do with parapsychology per se. I have similar enthusiasm for the second half of the chapter, which reviews the several recent meta-analyses of psi data, including the one that served as the centerpiece of the Hyman-Honorton debate over the ganzfeld studies. I believe that these meta-analyses provide both strong evidence for the existence of psi-like anomalies and clues about the processes that may underlie them.

Broughton is even more enthusiastic. Under the heading "On the Verge of a Breakthrough," he identifies the application of meta-analysis to psi research as one of the major advances in parapsychology in the last decade. He even refers to meta-analysis as the "Controversy Killer." Well, maybe. But as the Hyman-Honorton debate itself illustrates, the execution and interpretation of meta-analyses are not always straightforward, and there is a sprinkling of articles in the professional literature expressing even stronger doubts about the miracle cure of meta-analysis. Nevertheless, the technique certainly seems to establish firmer guidelines for settling controversies and to move them onto more fertile ground.

Chapter 10 discusses possible real-world applications of psi, including military applications and healing. There is also a section on psychic detectives, a topic that is treated in detail in the recent book, *The Blue Sense* by Arthur Lyons and Marcello Truzzi (1991, also cited by Broughton). Although much of the evidence cited in this chapter is also informal and anecdotal (and some of it is classified or proprietary), I do not experience the same discomfort with it as I do with the materials on macro-PK, ghosts, and life after death. Perhaps it is the more tentative context in which Broughton places it: the chapter bears the title, "Are We Ready for Applied Psi?"

In the brief final chapter, Broughton sets forth some tentative guesses about the future of psi research, including the implications of political developments in Eastern Europe for more international cooperation. He also discusses the possibility that psi might get "normalized" by being integrated into one of the new views of reality implied by quantum physics. I think this deserves a more central place than it receives; in fact, I would have liked a separate chapter on "Theories of Psi" in which he could present a more extended discussion. The superb pedagogy Broughton displays in his discussion of meta-analysis could be profitably applied to some of the technically difficult theories of psi. I suggest this despite the accusation—especially by my more skeptical colleagues—that parapsychologists are presumptuously premature in attempting to theorize about mechanisms underlying phenomena whose existence is still in question.

Which brings me to some other ways I might redesign the book for skeptical colleagues. First are the materials I found unconvincing. It is not Broughton's fault, of course, that the evidence in these areas is so unsatisfactory. Indeed, his own evaluative remarks in these problematic sections almost always accorded with my own reactions. But this only leads me to wish that he had apportioned space to topics in proportion to their probative value in supporting his major thesis. In my view, this misplaced devotion to equal time—if that's what it is—dilutes the overall persuasive impact of the book. They could be collapsed into a single chapter on "Marginal Areas of Parapsychology" or some such.

If Broughton did this, I would then like to see him devote some of the released space to a discussion of fraud in psi research—including case histories and a comparison with other areas of science. Because fraud is so salient a topic in the minds of parapsychology's detractors, an upfront discussion of the problem would make the book even more credible. I say this in the belief that parapsychology and parapsychologists would come off well in any balanced discussion of

the problem. Broughton has the credentials and the skills to provide that balanced discussion.

As noted above, my review of this book is framed in terms of its impact on my students and colleagues. But I heartily recommend Broughton's book for parapsychologists, too. His cheery optimism is a comforting antidote to the malaise for which the besieged, the unappreciated, and the chronically unfunded are so much at risk.

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THE CASE FOR DUALISM. Edited by John R. Smythies and John Beloff. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1989. Pp. xii + 268. \$35.00, cloth. ISBN 0-8139-1206-7. L.C. 88-36540.

The Case for Dualism is an anthology of nine articles contributed mostly by philosophers and psychologists and by one neuroscientist and one computer specialist, all of whom appear to share a dualistic bias and a thorough dissatisfaction with physicalism. While the editors make no claim of a concerted defense of dualism in this book, all the nine chapters seem to vindicate dualism from a variety of perspectives. In the process we find many of the old arguments rephrased and a few new ones added. The relevance of the book to psi researchers is that it provides the context and the backdrop for appreciating the important implications of psi for our world view.

Dualism is clearly the commonsense view of the world. Yet it is not the popular one among scientists and not even among philosophers. In the Western philosophical tradition, it was the French philosopher René Descartes who first articulated the dualistic thesis and asserted that mind and matter are two radically different substances. Consciousness is the essence of mind, he thought, while matter is the extended substance. Mind and matter are mutually irreducible. While each is independent of the other, they interact with each other, as in humans.

The main argument against dualism centers around the presumed interaction between mind and matter. How does unextended mind interact with the extended body? Any kind of causal interaction postulated between them comes into conflict at once with the physical